

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	1. Military Units at Plovdiv 2. Partisans in Northwest Bulgaria	DATE DISTR.	29 June 1953	
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Military Units at Plovdiv - November 1952

1. The command of a Soviet and Bulgarian division (?) is located in a 2-story building on Saidinenie Square in Plovdiv. The building is enclosed by a barbed wire fence and has a garden opposite the entrance; access is forbidden to civilians. [redacted] the divisional command to be for both Soviets and Bulgarians because [redacted] numerous officers of both nationalities going to work in the building. The guard unit consists of Bulgarians armed with PPSH submachine guns and ordinary repeater rifles. The Maritza River runs behind the building. The commander is an unidentified Soviet general and [redacted] a Bulgarian general and numerous other Soviet and Bulgarian officers.

2. Other units at Plovdiv are as follows:

- Unidentified infantry units occupying barracks on Pasardshik Street;
- Unidentified tank units occupying barracks on the Istanbul highway in the outskirts of the city;
- Unidentified artillery units occupying barracks attached to the tank barracks;
- Unidentified engineer units occupying barracks in the outskirts of the city on the Istanbul highway, located approximately 100 meters before the tank barracks; and
- Unidentified cavalry units occupying barracks in the western outskirts of the city on the road to Peshtera (N 42-02, E 24-16).

Partisans in Northwest Bulgaria - August 1952

3. [redacted] partisan units encountered Bulgarian Militia forces in the zone of Kula (N 43-53, E 22-30), Lom (N 43-49, E 23-12), and Belogradshik (N 43-48,

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22-40) in August 1952. The anti-Communist groups had organized and were living in the frontier area in order to have better chances of escaping and refuging in Yugoslavia. During the encounter, many Bulgarian peasants were arrested. In addition, a neutral strip 10-20 kilometers deep was set up along the border, in which all civilian movement was forbidden. The surveillance of this border strip is entrusted exclusively to the Militia and all military units were withdrawn because they were not sufficiently reliable.

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HOSPITALS IN PLOVDIV

Military Hospital

1. A military hospital is located in the Sadiyski quarter of Plovdiv, approximately 1,500 meters from the center of the city. It consists of a single 2-story building about 100 by 40 meters in size.
2. Personnel is as follows:
 - a. Lieutenant Colonel (Doctor) Anshiev director;
 - b. Lieutenant Colonel (Doctor) Drasov, head of the surgery department;
 - c. Major (Doctor) Vaved, assistant head of the surgery department;
 - d. Major (Doctor) Karabachev, chief of the dermosyphilitic department;
 - e. An unidentified major (doctor), chief of the dental office;
 - f. Captain (Doctor) Oramov, chief of the radiology department; and
 - g. Major (Doctor) Usonov, chief of the eye department.
3. The hospital has a capacity of 300 beds. It is equipped with modern apparatus of recent construction, including a radiology office, three internal medicine offices, an operating room, a dentist's office, and an eye office. The soldiers receive sufficient food, well prepared, notably better than that given in the civilian hospitals. Medical cure and assistance at the hospital is the best possible in Bulgaria, considering the scarcity of medicines and the lack of training of the local doctors.

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Principal Civilian Hospital

4. The principal hospital of Plovdiv is located on Sveta Pantalimon Street. It consists of numerous separated buildings, as follows:
 - a. Three treatment buildings;
 - b. Three or four surgery buildings;
 - c. One bone tuberculosis building;
 - d. One otolaryngology building;
 - e. One ophthalmology building;
 - f. One dermosyphilitical building;
 - g. One infectious diseases building; in emergencies, a school located in the immediate vicinity of the hospital can also be used for infectious diseases;
 - h. One gynecology building;
 - i. One building used for administrative offices;
 - j. One building used as a laundry; and
 - k. One building used as a kitchen.
5. Doctor Panayotov was director of the hospital until 1951. The new director is a radiology and internal diseases (interista) specialist. In 1950, the political commissar was Doctor Khristanov who was later transferred to the civilian hospital at Sofia; informant does not know his replacement.
6. The hospital has over 1,000 beds and is equipped with the following:
 - a. Two radiology and radioscopy offices, often out of order because of the excessive work;
 - b. Two dental offices;
 - c. A cardiogram apparatus (broken);
 - d. A pneumothorax apparatus; and
 - e. An apparatus [redacted] for illuminating and holding open the incision during surgery.
7. The facilities are overcrowded and every day many patients have to be turned away because of the lack of beds. Many patients are also discharged from the hospital before they are sufficiently recovered, causing relapses and even death.
8. The food at the hospital is insufficient and patients are very discontented. The following medicines are in shortage at the hospital:
 - a. Preparations for the treatment of heart ailments;
 - b. Cortison (cortigene) for heart and kidney ailments;
 - c. Tuberculosis preparations, especially PAS (Para Amino Salicylic Acid);

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- d. Streptomycin, available only in very small quantities;
 - e. Aspirin and allergy products.
9. All special medicines are very scarce. Surgical instruments, both those produced in Bulgaria and imported from the Soviet Union, are of very poor quality.

Secondary Civilian Hospital

10. The secondary civilian hospital in Plovdiv is located on Ivan Vazov Street, in the vicinity of the railroad station. Its personnel is as follows:
- a. Doctor Kiril Nikolov, director;
 - b. Doctor Rimalovski, chief of the radiology office;
 - c. Doctor Rubenov, chief of the dentist's office;
 - d. Doctor Tarpomanov, chief of the internal medicine department;
 - e. Doctor Bakvaroda, chief of the ophthalmology department; and
 - f. Doctor Samokovreev, chief of the eye department.
11. The hospital has a capacity of 60 beds. Its food and medical care are the same as at the principal civilian hospital.

DRUG SUPPLY AND PRODUCTION

Medical Factories

12. [redacted] medical factories in Bulgaria:
- a. Galenus, in Sofia, which is the principal factory of its type in the country; many specialties not produced directly at the factory arrive from abroad and the Galenus trade mark is substituted for the original;
 - b. The Sofiysko Aptekno Predpriatie (Sofia Medical Enterprise) Laboratory;
 - c. The Valev Factory in Stara Zagora, which produces allergy treatments and nerve sedatives; and
 - d. A penicillin factory is allegedly under construction in Plovdiv; machinery will be furnished by the USSR.

13. [redacted] the drug situation:

- a. Penicillin, available only on a doctor's prescription; generally of Soviet production, poor quality, less in demand than the American product;
- b. Streptomycin, found only in limited quantities; available only with a doctor's prescription, but not always in stock;
- c. Remifon, a tuberculosis preparation, not on sale; available only through a request to the Ministry of Public Health;
- d. PAS, tuberculosis preparation, completely lacking;
- e. "Cortigene," heart and kidney treatment, completely lacking;
- f. Aspirin and allergy products, almost completely lacking;
- g. Bandages and dressings, not in abundance or for free sale; and
- h. All special preparations, in very short supply.

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